

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 14-25 have been allowed and claims 2-10 and 12 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this response, claim 1 has been amended and claim 12 has been canceled. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,812,402 to Garth ("Garth"). Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that Figueroa does not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

With specific regard to claim 1, the rejected claim has been amended to include subject matter of canceled claim 12, which has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Figueroa. Claim 13 depends from claim 1, and therefore also recites patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection.

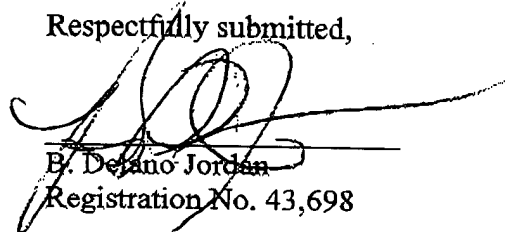
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CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass this case to issue at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 703.633.0962.

Respectfully submitted,

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